PARK & RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

November 28, 2018

PRESENT: JOHN BURCH, JOHN WALTON, JEFF WILLIAMS, RYAN BROWN, JASON SAPOSNEK, LAUREN SANKER – MEMBERS; Ginnie Anderson, Township Commissioner; Paul Rigney, Township Commissioner; Scott Fraser, Assistant Township Manager; Scott Shepler, Parks Maintenance Supervisor; Julie Roth, Recording Secretary.

VISITORS
Bryce Weenink - Boy Scouts Troop 190
Rory Bower - Mechanicsburg Girls Softball
Scott Tochterman - Keystone FC
Scott Edwards - Keystone FC
Don Fry - Keystone FC
Dawn Waterman - Keystone FC
Doug Marsico - Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association
Scott Steffan - Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Burch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
All present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Mr. Williams to approve the meeting minutes from the October 24, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walton and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. Burch mentioned that he hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving.
CHAIRMAN’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. **Township Commissioner–Paul Rigney**
   Commissioner Rigney stated that the Commissioners agreed with the budget except for the grass vacuum catch, which was too big of an expense and not a great use of Township funds. He said everything else that was requested went through.

2. **Assistant Township Manager – Scott Fraser**
   Absent

3. **Park Maintenance Supervisor–Scott Shepler**
   Mr. Shepler stated that a trash can was put back in at the Mutt Mitt station in Winding Hills Parks. Mr. Burch mentioned that he walked by and didn’t see the trash can, so it may have blown away.

4. **Mechanicsburg Recreation Department–Josh Green**
   Mr. Green stated that the basketball season is starting, with travel basketball beginning this weekend and recreation basketball starting in January. He said the brochure for Winter and Spring is out. He mentioned that February 23rd will be the annual dance, and the theme is “To the Moon and Back.” Mr. Williams stated that the brochure looks very sharp and he really enjoys the variety offered and how well thought out everything is.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS
Mr. Burch mentioned that Center Square Park looked good as well as Simpson Park.

Mr. Brown said Friendship Park was wet when he visited but it looked fine, and Rosegarden Park looked good.

Mr. Saposnek said Miller’s Crest park looked good.

Mr. Williams stated that the Dog Park is getting used at dusk. He said when he drove past this evening there were three cars there.

PUBLIC INPUT
Bryce Weenink, Boy Scout from Troop 190, updated the board on his Eagle Scout Project—a disc golf course that was installed at Simpson Park. He said he finished collecting the fundraising money in August and then started getting everything ready to construct the course, which was constructed on Saturday, October 13th and Sunday, October 14th. He said the overall project went very well and he thanked the Township for their approval and help with the project.

Mr. Burch mentioned that he was at the park today and decided to try it out. He said the course is fantastic and hopes that more people will become aware of it. Mr. Weenink said he will come back to the next meeting with a Power Point presentation to show the board.

Rory Bower, Vice President of Mechanicsburg Girls Softball Association, stated that their association would like to utilize the small field at Winding Hills East Park this coming year. Mr. Burch mentioned that at the last meeting he asked how the fields are allocated and it is his understanding that Mr. Shepler does the field assignments. He said the board knows that the fields are at a premium. Mr. Shepler asked Mr. Marsico, from Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, if he would be okay with the Softball Association using that field at Winding Hills East Park. Mr. Marsico stated that maybe they could reach a mutual understanding to help out the Softball Association and still accommodate the needs of the Baseball Association. Mr. Burch said if they can come up with a mutual agreement for the field,
then that’s what is preferred. Mr. Bower said they would like to add a shed to the park since they no longer have one. Mr. Shepler asked him to come up with a location and he will discuss it with the Township Assistant Manager.

Mr. Marsico mentioned that they control the lights at Fisher Park. He asked the board if they would like the lights on during the off season so that the public can use the park when it’s nice out. Mr. Shepler stated that he observed a bunch of kids at the basketball court one evening; however, that was the only light that was on. Mr. Marsico said he can set the lights to come on every night until a certain time. Mr. Burch thought it was a good idea to have them on. Mr. Williams recommended that Mr. Fraser look into the cost of the lights, but in the meantime to set them to turn off at 8 p.m. Mr. Rigney said he doesn’t think the cost would be a large factor, and he would talk to the Police Chief to see if he has an issue with it.

Mr. Burch made a motion to keep the lights on in the parking lot at Fisher Park until 8 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanker and passed unanimously.

Look into the cost of keeping the parking lights on at Fisher Park until 8 p.m. every night. (Action: Mr. Fraser)

Discuss keeping the parking lights on at Fisher Park until 8 p.m. every night with the Police Chief. (Action: Commissioner Rigney)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Off-Leash Dog Park Committee Update
   Mr. Burch stated that the next meeting will be held in the beginning of January to go over fundraising ideas. He said they had a booth set up at the Community Day held at the Middle School, and they had a good turnout.

2. Multi-tier fee schedule for field use discussion
   Mr. Williams mentioned that no decision will be made without a lot of input from others. He added that with the next meeting not scheduled until January, it will not be in time to change for the beginning of 2019. He said it will most likely take effect a few months into 2019. Mr. Rigney asked if the board had agreed that the $10 per child fee would not be pursued and Mr. Williams said that was his understanding. Mr. Burch added that if the $10 fee was turned down, he is interested in hearing what the sports groups have to say about the fee schedule. Dawn Waterman, from Keystone FCU, mentioned that they are okay with the $10 per child fee, as either way the money would be going into the fields and that’s okay with them. Scott Steffan, from Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, asked who would determine how the money is spent. He said it would create more red tape. Ms. Waterman mentioned that she is curious as to how it would work out and Mr. Steffan mentioned that it shouldn’t be more complicated than it needs to be. Mr. Burch thanked them for their input.

3. Pickleball Striping at Fisher Park Tennis Court
   Commissioner Rigney mentioned that all of the tennis courts in Mechanicsburg Borough have been switched over to pickleball courts and he was wondering if there is a need for tennis courts anymore. Mr. Green said the school district put in new tennis courts at the High School and that took some of the heat off of them from switching over. Mr. Steffan said he sees more kids playing wall ball instead of playing tennis. He said sometimes he sees people using them in the mornings. Mr. Burch said by making the courts both tennis and pickleball, it should keep everyone happy.
4. **Mt. Allen Playground Equipment Discussion**

Mr. Shepler showed the board a few options for the colors on the playground equipment. The board agreed on the equipment with the dark colored roof.

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to move forward with the dark roof design from Little Tikes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walton and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Field Maintenance/ Closure Discussion**

Mr. Shepler stated that at the last meeting the one field was mentioned, and he noted that it is torn up and he would like to close it; however, the Soccer Association was not in favor of that. He said he prefers to close it now and then if it looks okay by spring, they can use it. He added that the Soccer Association wanted to pay someone to come out and seed the field. Ms. Waterman said the area that’s chewed up is at the goal ends and the center of the field, so she would like to split it and turn the fields so that they would be able to keep using the field but not the damaged areas. Mr. Shepler asked if they have had it seeded yet, and she said they just had it done. Mr. Burch asked when their season starts and Ms. Waterman replied that it starts in late March to early April, depending on the weather. Mr. Shepler said if the field isn’t closed, then they cannot control who uses them. Mr. Williams said he sees groups of kids on the fields throwing the ball around. He said the field could be torn up from that but that can’t be controlled if it’s not closed. He added that he feels this should be the decision of Mr. Shepler as to whether the field is closed or not. Mr. Burch agreed and said he puts his faith in Mr. Shepler to choose what is best for the fields. Mr. Shepler said he will talk to the Assistant Township Manager and see if they can come up with a solution, and he will keep the Soccer Association involved in it as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Burch adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary